



The Hedgehog Facts

- Never feed a hedgehog with bread and milk. Cow's milk will give a hedgehog diarrhoea and bread is indigestible.
- Hedgehogs hibernate during winter, in leaf litter, under sheds anywhere sheltered and dry. Perhaps leave a corner of your garden undisturbed for hibernating hedgehogs or provide a hedgehog house.
- Slugs and snails make up about 5% of a hedgehogs diet. They need other food such as insects, carrion, bird's eggs etc. To encourage your hedgehog to stay in your garden perhaps feed it with Spike's banquet and Spike's meat products.
- Hedgehogs are 'hogs' they will eat until the food is gone so balance your hedgehog's diet just as you would a pet's.

Bee Facts



- The buff-tailed bumble bee *bombus terrestris* is the largest of Britain's 18 species of bumble bee.
- Britain has one species of honey bee but 227 species of solitary bees.
- A colony of 50,000 honey bees is said to produce 40 pounds of honey each summer.
- Albert Einstein is reputed to have said, quote;

"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have four years of life left. No more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man."



Badger Facts

- Badgers are mostly nocturnal creatures.
- They dig their setts usually in woodlands, preferring well drained soil which is easier to dig.
- Badgers are clean animals. They dig their latrines away from the sett and often bring their bedding out into the sunshine to air. Bedding is changed regularly.
- Badgers like to use a favourite tree to clean their paws and sharpen their claws.
- A badger's diet consists mainly of earthworms. Cereals, beetles, fruit, some mammals and perhaps the contents of bee or wasps nests may also be eaten. However, honey, sultanas and peanuts make a handsome treat if you want to encourage them.
- Badgers from the same sett scent mark each other for recognition. This process is known as musking.

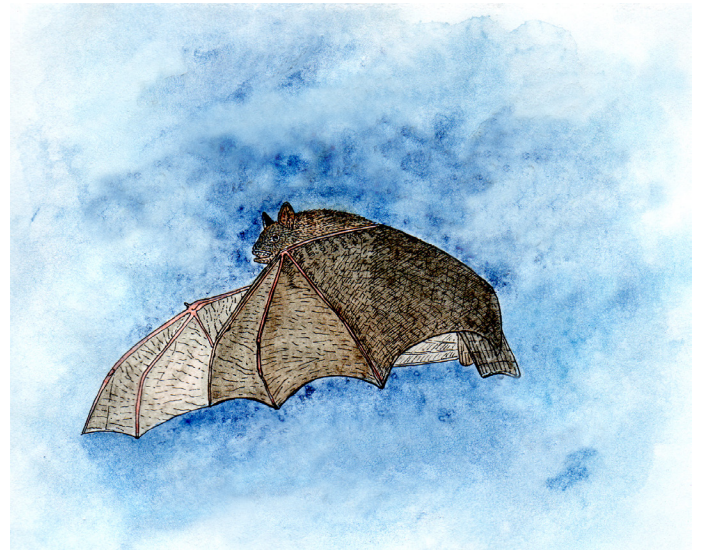


Toad Facts

- Toads have a warty skin whereas the skin of frogs tends to be smooth.
- Toads spawn in March/April time. Toad spawn looks like long strands of black beads.
- Toads spend much of their time on dry land in the shade of vegetation or in a hole or some other kind of nook. Toads return to watery habitats only to breed or perhaps to cool themselves down during a hot dry spell.
- Toads hibernate from October.

Bat Facts

- Bats are nocturnal.
- Bats are endangered owing to a shortage of food and sheltered places to in which roost and breed.
- Herbicides kill off insect larvae and insecticides used on crops kill off insects but contaminate survivors. Bats eating contaminated insects can die of poisoning.
- Bat boxes provide extra places for bats to roost or breed in. Equally if you are having roof repairs to your property perhaps consider leaving an entrance/exit hole for them.



Ladybird Facts

- Ladybirds are brightly coloured beetles.
- Most of us know the red ladybird with either two or seven black spots, but there are other species of ladybirds that are differently coloured with varying numbers of spots or markings.
- Ladybirds hibernate in sheltered places.
- Eggs are laid on plants that are riddled with aphids. Aphids are predated by both adult ladybirds and their larvae, making ladybirds the gardener's friend.
- You can attract ladybirds into your garden by using ladybird attractants and habitat boxes.



Frog Facts

- Frogs spawn between January and March in ponds and other shallow watery habitats.
- Frog spawn is a mass of black eggs and each one is enveloped in a transparent jelly coating.
- After spawning, surviving adult frogs may spend sometime in their watery habitat but afterwards the rest of the year is spent on dry land or in damp habitat.
- As with toads, frogs also hibernate.

Squirrel Facts

- Red squirrels prefer a habitat of coniferous trees with soft pine cones, whereas the Grey, a hardier species, is better adapted to broadleaved woodlands, parks, gardens and hedgerows. Its adaptability has greatly aided its success as a species.
- The red squirrel is in decline mainly owing to loss of habitat but where grey and red squirrels cohabit, the grey is usually the more successful as the stronger species and is therefore, in some areas, controlled.
- The red squirrel has distinctive ear tufts which are longer during the months of winter.
- The grey squirrel is an introduced species which escaped from menageries in the 19th century.
- Squirrels eat nuts, fruit, pollen, fungi, flowers, particularly tree flowers and will nibble tree bark when times are hard.

